

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 13-16 and 18 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Cazier (US 6,657,661) patent. The Examiner has also rejected applicant's claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Cazier patent in view of the Patton, et al. (US 6,408,301) patent. Applicant's claims 13, 14 and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Abram, et al. (US 6,462,778) patent. Applicant's claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Abram, et al. patent. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 18 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, applicant's amended independent claims 1, 7 and 18 have been amended to further recite the recording means in each claim. Thus in claim 1, the recording means is recited as "recording an image file containing image data on a recording medium according to a file system having a plurality of directories comprising attributes correlating to photographing positions of image data, each of the plurality of directories being capable of storing a plurality of image files. In claim 7, the recording means is recited as "allotting image data to a plurality of groups having attributes associated with a photographing position of the image data and recording the image data on a recording medium according to the allotted group, a plurality of image data being allotted to each of the plurality of groups." Finally, in claim 18, the recording means is recited as "recording an image file containing image data on a recording medium according to a file system having a plurality of

directories having the attributes associated with a photographing position and a photographer, a plurality of image data being allotted to each of the plurality of directories."

Each of amended claims 1, 7 and 18 thus requires that the directory or group have attributes corresponding to or associated with a photographing position and that the directory or group be allotted or able to store a plurality of image data. Each claim also requires in one form or another that for newly photographed image data, the directory or group whose attribute corresponds to the position of the newly photographed image be detected from the plurality of directories in which image files are already stored and that the newly photographed image data be stored in the detected directory (see, FIGS. 4 and 5). Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

In particular, the Cazier patent discloses adding a photographing time (date and time) to a file name. However, whether the number of images photographed at the same location is one or more, the Cazier patent only adds a photographing time to each file name and does classify the photographs in accordance with a photographing location (column 2, lines 50 -54). In addition, the Cazier patent also teaches to add a place name and number to a file name of an image photographed at the same location (column 2, lines 48-50). Accordingly, in the Cazier patent, it is required that there be detected a file name including the same place name as that of the location where a new image is photographed, in all (e.g. 100 to 1000) file names.

However, the patent does not teach or suggest establishing a plurality of groups or directories having attributes corresponding to or associated with photographing positions, where each directory or group is allotted or able to store a plurality of image data. Nor does it teach or suggest that for newly photographed image data, the directory or group whose attribute corresponds to the position of the newly photographed image be detected from the plurality of

directories in which image files are already stored and that the newly photographed image data be stored in the detected directory.

Applicant's amended claims 1, 7 and 18, and their, respective claims, all of which recite such features, in one form or another, thus patentably distinguish over the Cazier patent. The cited Patton, et al. patent adds nothing to the Cazier patent to change this conclusion.

The cited Abram, et al. patent discloses adding a person's name, selected from names displayed on a screen to a file name as metadata. Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's arguments, the passages in the Abram, et al. patent cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest formation of directories or groups having attributes associated with or corresponding to photographing positions and photographers, let alone directories allotted or capable of storing a plurality of image data. Thus, the Abram, et al. patent, fails to teach or suggest the invention of applicant's amended claim 18.

Applicant's amended claim 13 recites an "image pickup apparatus, comprising: recording means for allotting image data to a plurality of groups corresponding to the photographers of the image data and recording the image data on the recording medium according to the allotted group, a plurality of image data being allotted to each of the plurality of groups; fingerprint detection means for detecting a fingerprint of the photographer; photographer discrimination means for discriminating the photographer of the image data newly photographed by said image pickup means in accordance with the fingerprint detected by said fingerprint detection means; and control means for detecting the group corresponding to photographer discriminated by said photographer discrimination means among said plurality of groups where the image data are already allotted and for controlling said recording means so as to record the newly photographed image data by allotting the newly photographed image data

to the detected group."

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited Abram, et al. patent. In particular, applicant does not agree with the Examiner that the Abram, et al patent teaches or suggests "allotting image data to a plurality of groups corresponding to the photographers of the image data and recording the image data on the recording medium according to the allotted group." Additionally, amended claim 18 further recites a fingerprint detection means which detects the fingerprint of a photographer, a photographer discrimination means which discriminates the photographer of image data of newly photographed in accordance with the fingerprint detected by the detection means and control means which allots the image data of the newly photographed image to a groups corresponding to photographers based on the discriminated photographer. The cited Abram, et al. patent clearly fails to teach or suggest classifying and managing photographed image data in accordance with photographer discrimination based on detected fingerprints.

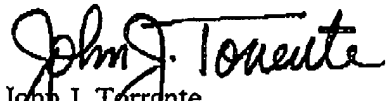
Applicant's claim 13, and its respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Abram, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P. C.  
1133 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
T (212) 790-9200

  
John J. Torrente  
Reg. No. 26359  
Attorney of Record